T.R
E286
P366.144

BY-LAWS

OF THE

LOYAL MONTREAL LODGE,

OF THE

MANCHESTER UNITY

OF THE

INDEPENDENT ORDER

OF

ODD FELLOWS,

HELD AT

HOST M'HARDY'S CALEDONIAN HOTEL,

ST. PAUL STREET,

MONTREAL.

Montreal:

PRINTED BY LOVELL & GIBSON, ST. NICHOLAS STREET

1843.

A3574

787

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY
REFERENCE.

OCT 15 1935

PREFACE.

THE importance of Societies in ameliorating the condition of man, in softening the asperities of his disposition, and in calling forth the latent benevolent principles of the mind, is sufficiently obvious to all acquainted with human nature, and therefore, need not to be urged here.

No Society, we presume, combines greater advantages for rendering ourselves happy, and, at the same time, conducing to the welfare of others, than the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Man, in his most prosperous condition, is subject to strange vicissitudes. One day he may revel in the fulness of his riches—the next, be forsaken and penniless. To-day he may walk in the pride of his strength—on the morrow, be helpless on the bed of sickness or death. To obviate in a measure, the evils incident to mankind, this Order was instituted; and, it has never yet deceived the hope of its most sanguine supporters.

By the contribution of small sums of money in the days of health and prosperity, a fund is raised to relieve those who are sick or in distress, and it is given to all that are considered worthy, whether rich or poor—as a *right*, not as a *gratuity*.

By this society being widely disseminated, its sphere of action is broad and useful. If a worthy Odd Fellow be in a strange land, or at home, and meet with

misfortune, his Brethren alleviate his distress; should he be taken sick, their watchful care smoothes his pillow and ministers to his necessities; and in case of his death, the last sad duty of man to his fellow man, is properly and solemnly performed.

One of the principal objections that has been urged against the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, is, that it is a secret society. Our forms and ceremonies, it is true, are not borne about on every breeze, or proclaimed from the house top, but they are open to all who are considered worthy, on the same conditions as we received them ourselves. Our secrecy is not to cloak our sins, but to render more useful those virtues which should characterise every Odd Fellow. Our proceedings do not, and cannot, in the least, affect those who are not initiated; and as acts of benevolence are our principal business, we do not wish to hold them, or the objects of them, up to the scrutinizing gaze of a cold and unfeeling world. Another objection frequently heard, is, if we relieve the distressed, why do we confine ourselves to a particular portion of the human family, and not give to every one? And, again, if we have any secrets that benefit us, we are selfish to keep them concealed,--why not give them to the world that all may enjoy their advantages? We answer—as our means are limited, we cannot give to all who are in want, lest they

"Should run to waste, or water but the desert, —

and certainly we ought not to be considered selfish for keeping to ourselves that which concerns only ourselves.

Our benevolence does not, however, as has been asserted, end with ourselves alone; part of our funds are

set aside as a source from which the widow and the orphan of a deceased brother are *entitled* to relief, and it is with unmixed satisfaction that we can point to our society as the only one of such an extended character, that so amply provides for all the cases of suffering humanity which are within the range of probability.

In the proceedings of our Lodges, the most profound respect is observed. We meet in Friendship, transact our business in Harmony, and depart in Peace. Political or religious disputes are never permitted among us. We associate as brethren of one and the same family. We guard against any impositions that may be practised towards us. We hold Honor and Truth as our motto; Charity and Benevolence as our cause; Friendship and Peace as our standard; Love and Unity our shield.—Such, and such only, are the principles of Odd Fellowship,—and while it shall please Divine Providence to smile on our benevolent efforts, we will continue to practice them, in the hope, that if our actions meet with the approbation of the Author of all Good, we shall be permitted, after being separated from our brethren here, to meet again hereafter, in the celestial regions of eternal bliss.

OPINION OF SIR JOHN CAMPBELL,

HER MAJESTY'S ATTORNEY GENERAL,

On the case submitted to him by the G. M. and Board of Directors of the

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS.

QUESTION.—Is the Manchester Unity of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows a legal or an illegal Society?

ANSWER.—Some little doubt may be entertained whether the Order of Odd Fellows may not be considered as coming within the letter of the provisions of the statutes respecting affiliated societies, but it appears to be a very loyal, moral, useful, and praiseworthy Institution,—and I think the members may continue to meet according to the rules of the Order, as they have so long done, without any danger of being called in question for a breach of the law.

QUESTION.—If the Manchester Unity is an illegal Society, can a party expelled, or an individual who is desirous of leaving the Order, recover, by an action in the Court of Requests, or any other Court, the amount of money paid by him into his Lodge; and if he can recover, is he entitled to more than an equal quota or proportion of the surplus fund in possession of the Lodge at the time of his expulsion?

ANSWER.—If the Society were illegal, an expelled member cannot, by law, recover back any part of the money paid by him to his Lodge.

QUESTION.—If the Manchester Unity is an illegal Society, what proceedings should be adopted to render it a legal one?

ANSWER.—I do not see any necessity for the Society being remodelled.

QUESTION.—If the Manchester Unity is an illegal Society, can the Lodge set-off, against any claim a member may make after his expulsion or withdrawal, sums of money paid him during sickness; as also his proportion of the quarterly expenses of the Lodge, from the date of his entrance up to the time of exclusion or withdrawal?

ANSWER.—If the Society were dissolved, no member could claim more than his share of the surplus; and if an account were taken on the footing of the sums he has paid, there must be a set-off in respect of the sums he has received.

QUESTION.—Could not a rule for a writ of prohibition be obtained from the Court of Queen's Bench, upon an affidavit of the facts, to restrain the Court of Requests from issuing execution, on the ground that their verdict (if against the Society) is illegal, and contrary to law, and thus bring the whole matter before that Court?

ANSWER.—I think the Court of Conscience has exceeded its jurisdiction, and if it proceeds in such cases, it might be restrained by prohibition.

QUESTION.—And generally to advise?

ANSWER.—I would strongly recommend to the Odd

Fellows to keep clear of law proceedings altogether, if possible; let them try to go on quietly and harmoniously as hitherto. But should the Court of Conscience *absurdly* attempt to put them down, by encouraging actions against the Society by expelled or discontented members, I think an application should be made to the Court of Queen's Bench for a prohibition.

(Signed)

J. CAMPBELL.

Temple, January 10th, 1837.

We do hereby certify that the above is a true copy.

EDWARD K. DAVIES, G. M,
GEORGE RICHMOND, D. G. M.
WILLIAM RATCLIFF, C. S.

8, *Aytown Street.*
Manchester, 14th January, 1842.

BY-LAWS

OF THE

LOYAL MONTREAL LODGE,

OF THE

MANCHESTER UNITY

OF THE

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS.

1—That the Lodge shall meet every alternate Monday, at half-past seven o'clock, and at eight o'clock the Secretary shall read over the officers' names. Every principal officer absent at that time, shall be fined sixpence ; every minor officer threepence ; should a principal officer absent himself the entire evening he shall be fined one shilling, and a minor officer sixpence, except a sufficient apology is given.

2—The use of tobacco or intoxicating drinks is strictly prohibited in the Lodge, nor are they permitted therein on any pretence whatever.

3—That every member of this Lodge pay the sum of one shilling per fortnight into the funds thereof, and that each member have a book in which shall be inserted an account of all monies paid and all arrears due.

4—That the Secretary shall receive no money later than half past nine o'clock in the evening, so that he

may be ready with the accounts and minutes of the evening.

5—That the Lodge shall appoint a surgeon to inspect individuals intending to join the Order and to attend sick members, and that every declaration of sickness and recovery shall be signed by the Lodge Surgeon.

6—That if any member, being sick, should employ a physician or surgeon not provided by the Lodge, then the surgeon of this Lodge shall visit such member once a week, and certify to the Lodge when such member is capable of following his employment.

7—That a visiting Committee of six members be appointed to visit sick members who shall be appointed as they come in rotation on the books, who shall visit sick brothers at least once a week, or be subject to a fine of threepence; the visiting Committee to continue in office one month.

8—That any brother on being by disease or bodily hurt six successive days unable to follow his regular employment be entitled to receive a sick gift of ten shillings per week, and for any number of days more than a week in the same proportion.

9—That any member declaring off the funds of the Lodge must give notice of the same to the N. G. or Secretary before commencing his work, or be subject to a fine of five shillings.

10—That any member receiving the sick gift of the Lodge, who shall be out of his house after nine o'clock in the evening in summer, and five o'clock in the evening in winter, shall forfeit one week's sick gift, except he can shew a just cause for being out.

11—After the death of a brother, his wife or those

taking charge of his funeral, on applying to the N. G. and satisfying him of the justice of the claim, shall receive an order to draw from the Treasurer the sum of ten pounds currency ; on the death of a brother's wife, on applying to the N. G. and satisfying him in like manner, he shall receive the sum of ten pounds currency ; if the wife or relative of the deceased brother be of unworthy character, or if a brother die without any near relatives, the Lodge shall take the management of his funeral and defray all necessary expenses.

12—That the Secretary shall be required to register the members' names, residences, and numbers of their doors, and should he from neglect make improper entries or no entry at all, he shall be fined sixpence for each neglect ; every member, after changing his residence, shall inform the Secretary in two Lodge nights after such removal or be fined the sum of sixpence, and every member neglecting to give notice to the Secretary of his residence, within one month after the adoption of these By-Laws, shall be fined sixpence; as regards houses not already numbered, brothers are to give the best description they possibly can, so that the officers of the Lodge will be able to find them when wanted.

13—That £7 10s. currency per year be paid to the host for the use of the Lodge room—to be paid half yearly on the first Lodge night after change of officers.

14—That any officer or brother neglecting to take up his degree the first lecture night after he has been proposed shall be fined the sum of threepence ; and respecting first degree see general law.

15—That the presiding officers shall have charges and duties given to them, and if any officer lose his charges or duties he shall make good the set.

16—That any member wishing to throw his card or clearance into this Lodge, before he be admitted shall obtain a certificate of his fitness from the Surgeon of the Lodge.

17—That the form at the side of the Secretary's desk be reserved for the use of those member's wishing to pay their pence, and that each members pence will be taken by the Secretary as they succeed each other; when a member receives his book from the Secretary he shall take his seat in some other part of the room. The Warden shall enforce this law.

ow his card or
admitted shall
e Surgeon of

tary's desk be
ishing to pay
will be taken
her ; when a
etary he shall
n. The War-